

this past January. This is the letter that I and other members of the CBC, AIDS activist groups and the faith-based community wrote to President Bush on December 18, 2002 asking him to announce a presidential initiative to address this vexing problem.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2002.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are writing to draw your attention to the growing spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the developing world. It would be impossible to overstate the devastation caused to date by the global AIDS pandemic, or the urgency of the need for a greater response from the United States and the global community. With 42 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS—29.4 million of them in Sub-Saharan Africa—14 million children already orphaned by the disease, and 70 million more people expected to die by 2020, we must do more now. We must respond on an appropriate scale to address the greatest plague in recorded history.

The United States, as the world's wealthiest nation, must take greater action by contributing its fair share, and in doing so we can help galvanize the global response that we so desperately need. As you prepare to travel to Africa in January, and as you prepare your budget for fiscal year 2004, you have a remarkable opportunity to demonstrate United States leadership against AIDS at a moment when the world will be watching. We urge you to launch a major new U.S. initiative to fight AIDS, as well as tuberculosis and malaria. TB is the leading killer of people with HIV, claiming 2 million lives each year despite the existence of an effective and inexpensive cure, while malaria kills nearly one million people each year, most of them young children in Africa.

An expanded U.S. Initiative to fight AIDS must:

Provide at least \$2.5 billion for implementation of global AIDS programs in 2004, as well as additional funds to combat TB and malaria. At least 50 percent of this should go to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Prioritize treatment, as well as prevention and care, for those affected—including an expanded mother-to-child transmission initiative that would detect and treat entire families, and including funding and personnel as needed to implement the WHO call to treat three million people with HIV by 2005.

Promote developing countries access to sustainable supplies of affordable medicines for AIDS and other diseases such as opportunistic infections in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and oppose any attempts to limit the scope of the Declaration.

Expand programs for children orphaned by AIDS.

Seek debt cancellation for impoverished countries, so they can invest in poverty reduction and AIDS programs.

Most importantly, a U.S. initiative should consist of new monies and policies that complement existing U.S.-supported programs and are additional to the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). The MCA, however, also must help meet the Millennium Development Goal of halting and reversing the spread of these diseases.

We cannot win the war against AIDS without greater financial resources and a clear plan of action for the United States. Programs around the world are ready to scale up prevention, treatment, and care to save lives

now, and to develop the systems needed to save tens of millions more in the future. Each day we delay in mounting a comprehensive—and compassionate—response to the global AIDS and TB pandemics, the cost in human, social, and economic terms grows. You will have our strong support and the support of the American people for a bold new initiative to save families and communities affected by the AIDS crisis, to extend the parent-child relationship, and to secure the future of young people.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, Donna Christian-Christensen, Edolphus Towns, Charles B. Rangel, Julia Carson, Juanita Millender-McDonald.

Maxine Waters, Danny K. Davis, Robert Scott, Elijah E. Cummings, William "Lacy" Clay, Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Eddie Bernice Johnson, Bobby L. Rush, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Diane E. Watson, Gregory W. Meeks, Major R. Owens.

Harold Ford, Jr., John Conyers, Jr., Alcee L. Hastings, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Donald M. Payne, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Bennie G. Thompson, Melvin L. Watt, Corrine Brown, Chaka Fattah, Jesse Jackson, Jr., James Clyburn, Albert R. Wynn.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago we began witnesses to genocide in Europe. By stirring up nationalism, harassing opposition and intimidating the population as a whole to go along with his plans, the regime of Slobodan Milosevic led Serbia into a war of aggression against its neighbors within the former Yugoslavia. Millions were displaced, hundreds of thousands killed and tens of thousands raped or tortured, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In response, largely at the urging of the U.S. Congress, sanctions were put into place and, ultimately, military intervention was employed to stop Milosevic.

In 2000, the voters of Serbia removed Milosevic from power. In place of his regime, an opposition consisting of genuine reformers and true democrats along with a fair share of Serbian nationalists took control of government. Since that time, the ruling opposition fell into polarized camps, making recovery and reform difficult. This situation also created a challenge in U.S. foreign policy. On the one hand, the United States wants to encourage Belgrade and facilitate reform. On the other, the United States must ensure that the legacy of Slobodan Milosevic has been fully shed, a prerequisite for recovery throughout southeastern Europe.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, H.R. 1047, considered yesterday contains a provision granting the President the authority to restore normalized trade relations for Serbia and Montenegro. I support this provision; normalized trade relations should be restored. Whatever problems might remain, the fact is that there has been progress since Milosevic was re-

moved from power, and Serbia and Montenegro should not be placed on the same list of states not granted normalized trade relations as Cuba, North Korea or Laos. Other countries with far worse records, including Belarus and the Central Asian states, at least receive the benefits of normalized trade relations on a conditional basis which Serbia and Montenegro is denied.

By fixing this, I hope Belgrade recognizes that we want reforms to succeed and recovery and reform take place.

Belgrade also needs to know, Mr. Speaker, that restoring NTR does not mean satisfaction with Belgrade's performance to date. While there has been progress, that progress has been too slow, and some issues remain unresolved. Chief among these issues is Belgrade continued resistance to full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague. It is especially outrageous that persons responsible for the crimes committed at Vukovar and Srebrenica continue to be at large and perhaps even protected by Yugoslav or Serbian authorities.

While trade relations may not be conditioned on further progress, U.S. bilateral assistance to Serbia is. If there is not a major improvement in Belgrade's cooperation with The Hague by June 15, assistance to Serbia will stop. The Administration must certify progress before assistance continues past that date, and the State Department has made clear that a precondition for certification is the apprehension and transfer of Ratko Mladic, indicted for the massacre of thousands at Srebrenica, and Veselin Slijivancanin and Miroslav Radic, indicted for their role in the massacre of about 200 individuals taken from a hospital in Vukovar, Croatia.

As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I urge Belgrade not only to meet their international obligations relating to ICTY not just to the point of obtaining certification for another year. Cooperation should be full. Only then can the conditionality on assistance be removed for good.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce legislation which amends the Small Business Act to authorize a Small Business Development Center in an eligible State to apply for an additional Small Business Administration grant to be used solely to provide specified services to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

I introduced this legislation during the 107th Congress where it passed the House and unfortunately was not considered in the Senate. I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today and wish to thank Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELAZQUEZ for their support of this legislation as well as Representatives GRAVES, FRANKS, RENZI, MATHESON, KILDEE, HAYWORTH, MARK UDALL, MILLENDER-

MCDONALD, BALLANCE, CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, GONZALEZ, ACEVEDO-VILA, CASE, MICHAUD, TUBBS JONES, CARSON, FALEOMAVEGA, BORDALLO, NAPOLITANO, and DAVIS for their support.

This legislation requires a State receiving a small business development center program grant to request the advice of the governing bodies of Indian tribes, corporations organized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and other Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations, as appropriate, on how best to provide assistance to such members, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and where to locate satellite centers to provide such assistance.

Today we have demonstrated how important small business enterprise is to the health of our economy. But there are still places in this country where economic prosperity has often failed to reach. These areas deserve our attention and assistance.

Consider this, nowhere in America has poverty persisted longer than on and near Native American reservations, which suffer an average unemployment rate of 45 percent. However, the number of businesses owned by Indian tribe members and Native Alaskans grew by 84 percent from 1992 to 1997, and their gross receipts grew by 179 percent in that period. This is compared to all businesses, which grew by 7 percent, and their total gross receipts grew by 40 percent, in that period.

I would like to continue this growth and expansion of small enterprise with the passage of this legislation. My bill ensures that Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians seeking to create, develop and expand small businesses, have full access to the counseling and technical assistance available through the SBA's SBDC program. The business development tools offered by the SBDCs can assist Native Americans with the information and opportunity to build sustainable businesses in their communities.

In an effort to ensure the quality and success of the program, the proposal requires SBA to include in the application, at a minimum, information requests regarding the applicant's goals and objectives, including the experience of the applicant in conducting programs or ongoing efforts designed to assist the business skills of small business owners and the capability of such applicant to provide training and services to a representative number of Native Americans, Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians.

It is clear we can do more to aid Native American entrepreneurs. Not enough has been done to assist Native American's in building their businesses, which in turn helps benefit, their communities. I hope to change that with my proposal.

THANKING MRS. DIANN CONDREY
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on March 15th, we rise to thank Mrs. Diann Condrey for her 26 years of outstanding service to the federal government, including 10 years service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Over the years, Diann has provided outstanding customer support to Members, Committees, Leadership and Support Offices of the House. She began her service to the House on December 1, 1992, and served this great institution in numerous capacities, most notably with House Information Resources (HIR) under the office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

In 1992, she was hired as a Committee consultant to provide technical support to Committee offices. Diann remained in that position until 1995. Since 1995, she has worked as a Technical Support Representative servicing Members, Committees, and Leadership offices. Diann is highly skilled and very proficient in providing office automation and technical advice to House offices. Her efforts and work ethic are a true demonstration of excellence and dedication to providing passionate customer service. Her previous federal experience as a Contracting Officer and her breadth of knowledge of House office operations enabled Diann to effectively manage the House Systems Administrator contract for TechCare. This contract filled a need in many House offices for professional Systems Administration.

I know all of you join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to this invaluable member of the House family. We wish the very best to Diann and her husband Jim as they pursue the next phase of their life.

HONORING THE COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, COMPANY C, 109TH MEDICAL BATTALION

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the men and women of Company C of the Army National Guard's 109th Medical Battalion for their willingness to serve our country. The unit, based in Montrose, Colorado, has been deployed to support America's troops in Operation Enduring Freedom. They are preparing to protect our national security in a time of international crisis.

Company C has provided medical support for U.S. operations in Honduras, Belize, and Nicaragua. It provided airport security following the September 11th terrorist attacks and assisted firefighters during one of the worst wildfire seasons in Colorado history. This time, its final mission and destination are unknown.

The men and women of Company C are doctors and dentists, nurses and teachers, parents and newlyweds. They each leave family, friends and jobs for at least one year to serve our nation. The sacrifice and dedication of these volunteers are a credit to this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to recognize Company C for its exemplary service to the United States of America before this body of Congress and this nation. The courage of these American men and women is an inspiration to all.

ANDREW PITAS HONORED BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSOCIATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues a recent article from The Loudoun Times-Mirror which honors my constituent Mr. Andrew Pitas of Lucketts upon his receipt of the Glenn Gilbert Award from the Air Traffic Control Association for his lifetime commitment and leadership in the field of aviation.

I am proud to call attention to the achievements of Mr. Pitas as he is honored with this prestigious award. On behalf of the people of Virginia's 10th Congressional district, I congratulate Mr. Andrew Pitas for his outstanding efforts in the field of air traffic control.

[From The Loudoun Times-Mirror, Feb. 12, 2003]

LUCKETTS MAN HONORED FOR AVIATION

LEADERSHIP

(By Scott Cissel)

Lucketts resident Andrew Pitas first experienced air traffic control in 1941 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. One day a supervisor at the Anacostia Naval Air Station in Washington, D.C., asked the 17-year-old to work in the control tower.

"It looked warm up there," recalled Pitas, who had been working outside in the chilly air, inspecting airplane propellers for cracks.

Now more than 60 years later, the Air Traffic Control Association, an organization co-founded by Pitas in 1956 and based in Arlington, is honoring him with the Glenn Gilbert Award for his lifetime commitment and leadership in the field of aviation.

Only 15 people have received the award, including U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and Najeeb Halaby, father of Queen Noor of Jordan. Pitas' name will be added to the Glenn Gilbert trophy, which is kept on permanent display in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

"It's kind of humbling," Pitas said. "Air traffic controlling is a team effort. There are so many people you can get in trouble and who can get you in trouble. There are no cowboys in this business."

The 80-year-old, raised on a dairy farm in Rhode Island, learned air traffic control when it was a fledgling technology. He was stationed in England during World War II as a controller.

After the war he worked at the Washington Tower in D.C., now Reagan National Airport. Returning to the farm, where as a boy he had watched planes fly overhead en route to Boston, wasn't an option.

"There were better ways to make a living," he said. "I had to milk cows morning and night."

Before radar became a standard practice after the war, some pilots refused to take radar readings from controllers, according to Pitas. Others liked it so much they played the radar position he broadcast to their passengers in the cabin.

And some pilots and crews had enough time to sing a greeting song to him as their planes neared landing. Controllers knew many of the pilots by name then.

"In the early days we knew a lot of them," said Pitas.

As air traffic increased, so did the stress on controllers, which prompted Pitas to develop a system that is now universally used—the automated terminal information system. The service sends a recording with continuously updated information on flight conditions to pilots. Before, pilots had to radio the tower for updates.